

OFFICE LETTER

To	Bruce Crawford, State Director	Office	Date	Feb. 7, 1941
From	Juanita S. Dilley	Office	Referring to County History	
Subject	The churches of Pocahontas		File	

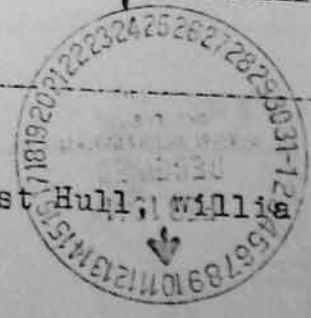
Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

You will notice that only a few churches were built before the Civil War, and that a very few were built just after the war. Most of them were built between 1890 and 1920. The reason for that is this; the lumber companies were coming into the county, and every land owner had timber to sell. There was a saw mill ever few miles all over the county. Work was easy to get, wages were good consequently money was plentiful. Also the lumber for building was right at hand, so every little community went to work and built a church. Many more were built than can now be supported, and more than is really needed at this time. Some of them should never have been built to begin with. Church union has done away with some of them, and others will be abandoned as time goes by. A-~~2288~~ch quarrels must be handled very tactfully, as sometimes merely talking about them brings to mind to much that needs be forgotten.

J. S. D.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Research Worker	Juanita S. Dilley	Date Research Taken	Dec. 23, Jan. and Feb. 1.
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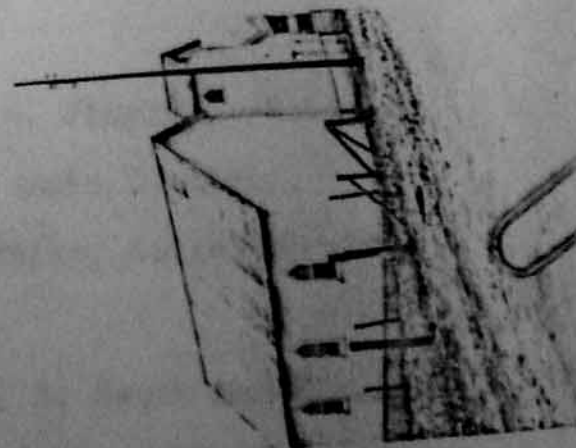


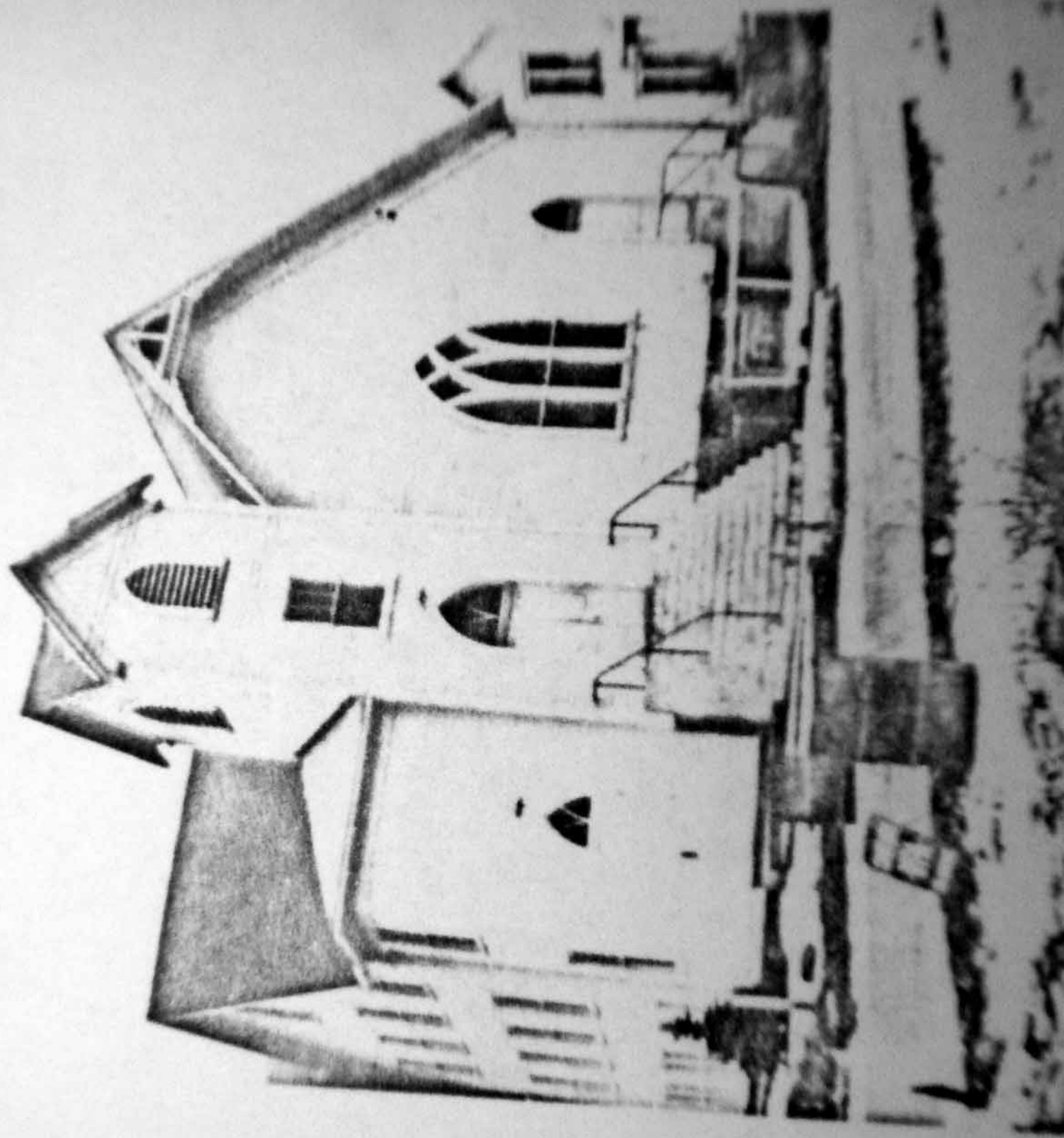


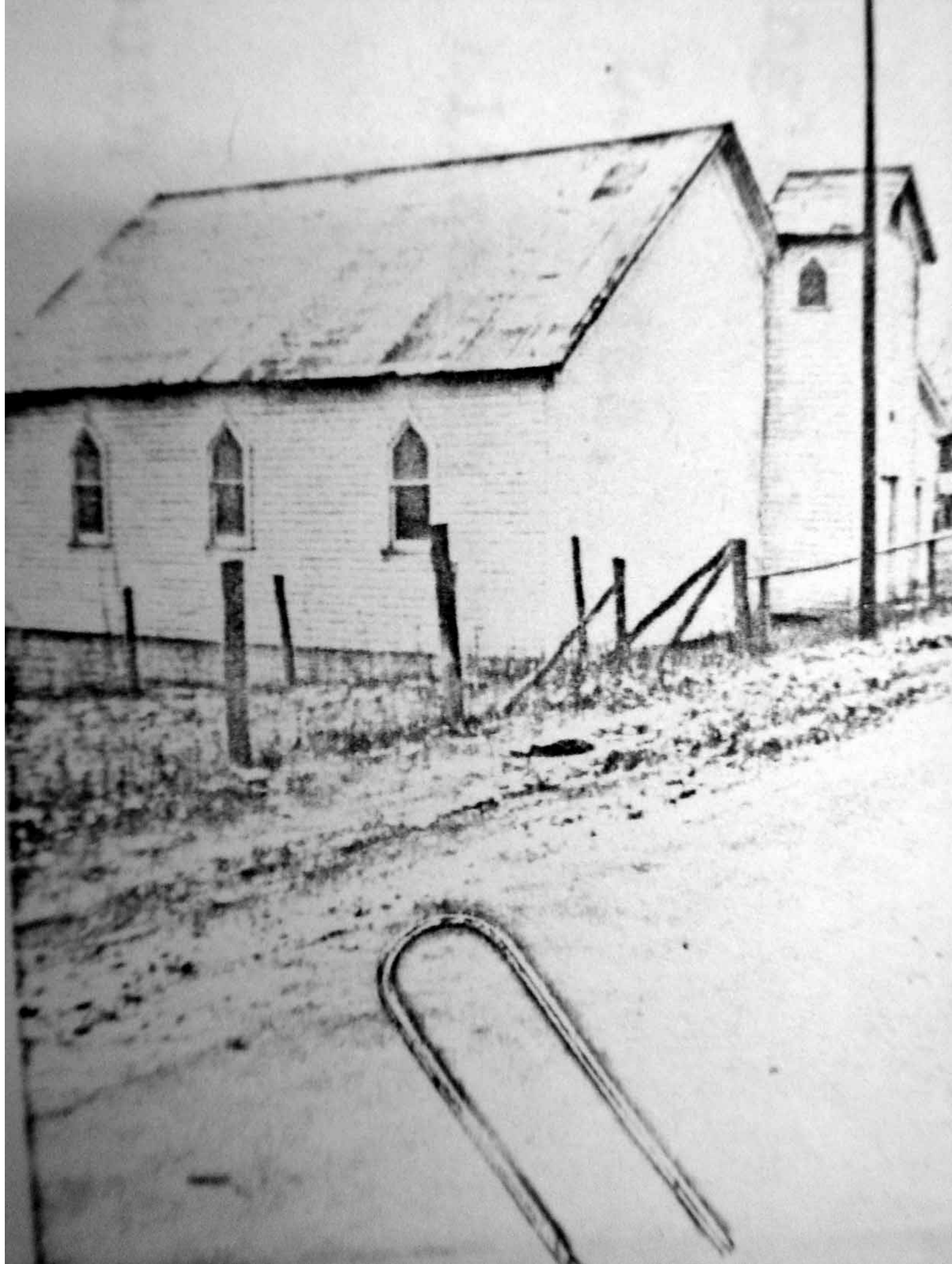
DURBIN CHURCHES

The United Methodist Church. To the right is the old original part, while to the left is the new addition.

The old M. E. Church







Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Chapter 6 Religion
February 7, 1941

DURBIN CHURCHES

H. Blackhurst, an M. E. preacher, was the first preacher to hold services in the town of Durbin. These first services were held in a tent. The next year Charlie Curtis built a blacksmith shop and let them use that as a place of worship.

In the year of 1904 Albert VanDevender, junior pastor under John W. McNeil of the Greenbank circuit, came to Durbin and organized an M. E. South class of the following members:

Charles C. Burner-----	from	Travelers	Repose
Bettie Burner-----	"	"	"
Peter D. Arbogast-----	"	"	"
Hodie Arbogast-----	"	"	"
Willia Wilmoth-----	"	"	"
N. B. Arbogast-----	"	"	"
Charles W. Arbogast-----	"	Greenbank	
Maggie Arbogast-----	"	"	
Mary Arbogast-----	"	"	
Andrew M. Oliver-----	"	Cass	
Maud Oliver -----	"	"	
Thomas M. Keirns -----	"	"	
Virginia Bird -----	"	"	

Link Burner, Mathew Kelley, Mrs. E. M. Pingley, Roberta Burner, C. G. Sutton, Carrie Sutton, Annie L. Eades, Edna Cassell, Kannie B. Kelley, James Folks, Elizabeth Folks, Mary Folks and Edith Folks.

Since there were both M. E. and M. E. South members and the town was small, it was decided that they would go together

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and build one church to be used by both denominations, so a lot was secured from John T. McGraw and the church was built. It was not long, however, until the M. E. preacher went there one morning to preach and found the door locked from the inside. Therefore, on April 3, 1907 a lot was bought from John T. McGraw and a deed was given to F. C. Hiner, James Rider, Thomas M. Keirns, E. W. Keirns, E. W. Unger, and L. Simmons, trustees of the M. E. Church.

On May 3, 1910 the M. E. South members bought from John T. McGraw (for he owned all Durbin) and built a Parsonage. This deed was given to P. M. Yeager, Dyer Gum, N. B. Arbogast, Andrew M. Oliver, F. K. Moore, H. Q. Burr and C. E. Carpenter, Trustees of the parsonage.

The deed for the M. E. parsonage was given Sept. 28, 1912 to James H. Ellinger, W. W. Marshall and Austin Nottingham, trustees.

From 1907 until 1939 these churches remained separate, but in 1939 Dr. D. L. Snyder was sent to the circuit to unite the two congregations. The union took place in November of that year.

Since the M. E. South church was the larger and better church, they decided to remodel it into a united church, so the M. E. church was sold for \$300. and the parsonage for \$1300. and this money applied to the new addition. A basement and Sunday school rooms has been built at a cost of around \$10,000.

There are 267 members, about 50% of them having been transferred from the M. E. Church. One board of trustees has been appointed to take the place of the four separate boards. They are: H. S. Banton, Mrs. A. E. Burner, W. W. Hoover, C. Forrest Hull, Mona Hull, Grace Kisner, Odith Lambert, T. P. Lambert, C. G. Mack,

Betty Farg, Mrs. Max Poscover, Mrs. H. L. Stokes, Isom Vance, Edith Townsend, Mrs. C. C. Watts, Mrs. J. L. Williams, June Stewart, Ralph Bassatt, and Rodrick Cromer.

Dr. Snyder, himself, is acting as Supt. until the union is completed.

The Adult Division Supt. is Mrs. J. L. Williams

Young Peoples Division Supt. Mrs. Max Poscover

Childrens Division Supt. Mrs. W. W. Hoover

Cradle Roll Division Supt. Mrs. Ethel Rexrode

Mrs. H.M. Widney is the President of the Womens Society of Christian Service, with 65 members. Mrs. Max Poscover is the President of the Girls Standard Bearers Missionary Society, with 25 members.

Dr. Snyder is a grand organizer and he has gotten them together in a fine harmony. Some think he made a mistake by appointing himself as the Supt. instead of some one in the membership. They are afraid that when he leaves that there will be trouble over the selection of a Supt.

Note-I promised not to have included in the history this little incident, but it is so humorous that I am going to relate it, only pleas do not put it in the book. It was Andy Oliver who locked the church against the M. E. members. He went into the church and locked it on the inside then undertook to climb out ^{through} the window. He dislodged the window stick and the window